

**POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE FOR  
Governor's Council on Food Security  
[Draft] Minutes  
September 11, 2018**

The Governor's Council on Food Security Policy Subcommittee held a public meeting on September 11, 2018, beginning at 1:04 P.M. at the following locations:

Division of Public and Behavioral Health  
4150 Technology Way Room 303  
Carson City, NV 89706

Division of Public and Behavioral Health  
4220 South Maryland Pkwy, Building D, Ste. 810  
Small Conference Room  
Las Vegas, NV 89146

**Board Members Present**

Homa Anooshehpour, Administrator, Food and Nutrition Services, Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) (Phone)  
Aurora Buffington, Faculty Instructor, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (UNCE) (Phone)  
Chuck Duarte, CEO, Community Health Alliance (CHA) (Phone)  
Cherie Jamason, Director of Ending Hunger Initiatives, Food Bank of Northern Nevada (FBNN) (Carson City)  
Robert Thompson, Deputy Administrator, Division of Welfare and Supportive Services (DWSS) (Carson City)  
Jodi Tyson, Vice President, Strategic Initiatives, Three Square Food Bank (Phone)

**Board Members Not Present**

Steve Fisher, Administrator, DWSS

**Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) Staff Present**

Karissa Loper, MPH, Deputy Bureau Chief, Bureau of Child, Family and Community Wellness (CFCW), Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH) (Carson City)  
Michelle Walker, RD, Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Section Manager, CFCW, DPBH (Carson City)  
Laura Urban, Food Security and Wellness Manager, Office of Food Security, CFCW, DPBH, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) (Carson City)  
Christopher Bartoni-Rojas, Administrative Assistant II, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (CDPHP) Section, CFCW, DPBH (Carson City)

**Also Present**

Cindy Routh Smith, Social Services Chief III, Office of Community Partnerships and Grants, DHHS (Carson City)  
Shane Piccinini, Government Relations, FBNN (Carson City)  
Jessica Wise, FBNN (Carson City)  
Megan Rockefeller, FBNN (Carson City)

Mackenzie Baysinger, Human Services Network (Carson City)  
Sarah Adler, Governor's Council on Food Security (GCFS) (Carson City)  
Michael Phillips, Government Affairs and Compliance Director, Three Square Food Bank (Las Vegas)

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call**

Cherie Jamason, co-chair, called the meeting to order at 1:04 P.M.

Roll call was taken, and it was determined a quorum of GCFS Policy Subcommittee was present.

**2. ACTION ITEM: Approve minutes from August 6, 2018 Subcommittee meeting**

Ms. Jamason asked if there were any corrections to the draft minutes from the August 6, 2018 meeting.

MS. JAMASON ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 6, 2018 MEETING. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY CHUCK DUARTE. AURORA BUFFINGTON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

**3. ACTION ITEM: Present, discuss, and identify next steps regarding policy recommendation of removing Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)**

**Asset Test**

Robert Thompson stated, during the June 5, 2018 GCFS Policy Subcommittee meeting, the Policy Subcommittee agreed to table the recommendation of removing the TANF asset test. Mr. Thompson stated the administrative burden for clients to verify assets has been removed. The asset test is currently set at \$6,000, and DWSS supports raising the asset limit to \$10,000.

Ms. Jamason asked for public comment.

Shane Piccinini stated a FBNN social work intern presented the policy recommendation to remove the TANF asset test at the May 1, 2018 GCFS Policy Subcommittee meeting. He asked if raising the TANF asset limit to \$10,000 was possible, as well as exemption of two (2) vehicles for a two-adult household.

Mr. Thompson stated Nevada DWSS supports raising the TANF asset limit to \$10,000, as well as the exception of (1) vehicle for each adult within the household.

Mr. Thompson will determine whether the proposed changes will require legislative action and will update the Policy Subcommittee accordingly.

**4. ACTION ITEM: Discuss progress and identify next steps regarding recommendations from Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America**

Michael Phillips of Three Square Food Bank presented [Vulnerable Population Accessibility](#), relating to the vulnerable populations identified in *Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America*.

Mr. Duarte asked how organizations could use the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to identify social deterrents without violating the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Jodi Tyson stated HIPAA does not apply to community-based services.

Mr. Duarte replied there may be HIPAA concerns with various programs including prescription pantries, WIC, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Cindy Routh-Smith stated Community Services Block Grant partners use the eLogic software system, a social determinants software program.

Ms. Tyson inquired about the cost of eLogic.

Ms. Smith will share eLogic cost information with Laura Urban to share with the GCFS.

Mr. Duarte asked if the eLogic system would allow for a comparative analysis to determine gaps in services.

Ms. Smith confirmed these analyses could be performed using eLogic.

Ms. Tyson suggested the Policy Subcommittee recommend GCFS Chair, Steve Fisher, create a GCFS Technology Subcommittee to: 1) assess technology opportunities and 2) make recommendations to the GCFS regarding strategies for implementing a statewide client-tracking data system.

Ms. Jamason asked Ms. Urban to summarize Nevada's accomplishments relating to the recommendations outlined in *Freedom from Hunger: An Achievable Goal for the United States of America*.

Ms. Urban presented the [National Commission on Hunger Recommendations: Nevada Status Report](#). She shared an update on "Pilot C" regarding shelter deductions and allowances within SNAP. She referenced the [May 1, 2018 GCFS meeting minutes](#), when Naomi Lewis spoke on the topic. Per Ms. Lewis, Nevada may be able to request a waiver from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) to increase the maximum shelter deductions allowed by SNAP. Otherwise, changes will need to be made at the federal level, within the Farm Bill, to increase the maximum deductions allowed by SNAP.

Sarah Adler suggested this body recommend DWSS request a waiver from USDA FNS to increase the maximum shelter deductions allowed by SNAP.

MS. JAMASON ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDING DWSS REQUEST A WAIVER TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM SHELTER DEDUCTION IN SNAP. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MR. DUARTE. MS. TYSON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

MS. JAMASON ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO APPROVE RECOMMENDING THE CREATION OF A GCFS TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE. A MOTION TO APPROVE WAS MADE BY MS. TYSON. MR. THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION WHICH PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT PUBLIC COMMENT.

**5. ACTION ITEM: Present, discuss, and identify next steps regarding Federal policy priorities and recommendations**

Ms. Tyson stated Farm Bill Action Day is September 13, 2018. Farm Bill Action Day is a coordinated effort across food banks within the Feeding America network to voice support of a strong Farm Bill, which includes increasing the Emergency Food Assistance Program's (TEFAP) funding and protecting SNAP.

**6. ACTION ITEM: Present, discuss, and approve policy recommendations to be presented to the Governor's Council on Food Security**

Ms. Tyson stated the Policy Subcommittee identified two (2) recommendations to be presented to the GCFS: 1) to develop a GCFS Technology Subcommittee, and 2) to recommend DWSS request a waiver from USDA FNS to increase the maximum shelter deductions allowed by SNAP.

**7. ACTION ITEM: Present, discuss, and approve GCFS priorities to be presented to the Grants Management Advisory Committee (GMAC)**

Ms. Jamason asked Ms. Urban to share priority recommendations submitted by GCFS members.

Ms. Urban stated two (2) GCFS members submitted recommendations. Chair Fisher recommended identifying older Nevadans as a priority population and addressing transportation as a barrier to food access among this population. Dr. Osgood recommended addressing the reinstitution of work requirements under SNAP.

Ms. Tyson stated the Grants Management Advisory Committee (GMAC) has \$2,300,000 in food security funds, which are not managed by the GCFS. These funds are managed through GMAC, per Nevada Revised Statute (NRS). Since its inception, the GCFS has focused on food policy and strategies for increasing participation in federal nutrition programs and have prioritized older Nevadans and children. Ms. Tyson recommended requesting a better balance between the programmatic aspects currently funded among community partners and the priorities of GCFS which tend to be more policy-based.

Mr. Duarte asked Ms. Tyson if she would like to see GCFS authority extend beyond current efforts and work to better coordinate different food security grant opportunities.

Ms. Tyson stated the GCFS has focused on policy for two (2) reasons: 1) the GCFS serves as an advisory board to Governor Sandoval, and 2) the GCFS does not manage the GMAC food security funds, per NRS.

Ms. Jamason stated sharing GCFS priorities with the GMAC is a great opportunity to enhance collaboration going forward, to ensure resources are used to address service gaps.

Ms. Jamason made a recommendation to allocate money focused on rural communities.

Ms. Tyson recommended a dual representative between the GCFS and the GMAC.

Ms. Smith confirmed the GMAC can have ad hoc members.

Ms. Adler recommended maximizing existing efforts by using the updated [Food Security Plan](#) to determine GCFS priorities.

Ms. Urban agreed. Aligning GCFS and GMAC priorities with the Food Security Plan will strengthen the recommendations. She stated the two (2) recommendations discussed regarding policy and increasing participation in federal nutrition programs do align with goals within the Food Security Plan, specifically LEAD Goal 2: *Identify and support state and local policies that increase food security in Nevada*, and FEED Goal 1: *Support strategies that increase participation in state/federal nutrition programs*.

Ms. Tyson asked Ms. Urban if there were Food Security Plan activities addressing hunger among older Nevadans.

Ms. Urban stated no, older Nevadans are not specifically mentioned, but prioritizing efforts addressing hunger among older Nevadans aligns with FEED Goal 1: *Support strategies that increase participation in state/federal nutrition programs*.

**8. ACTION ITEM: Discuss and approve Policy Sub-Committee next steps**

The Policy Subcommittee agreed to take a hiatus. It was determined Chair Fisher could reconvene the Policy Subcommittee at any time.

**9. ACTION ITEM: Discuss and delegate approval of 9.11.18 meeting minutes**

September 11, 2018 GCFS Policy Subcommittee minutes review and approval was delegated to co-chair, Ms. Tyson.

**10. Public Comment**

Ms. Jamason called for public comment.

Mr. Piccinini stated the GCFS Policy Subcommittee meeting minutes from August 6, 2018 indicated the FBNN had hired a lobbyist, which is incorrect. He clarified it was the Human Services Network which had hired the lobbyist.

**11. Adjournment**

Ms. Jamason adjourned the meeting at 2:45 P.M.